

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): An antibody that recognizes an active hepatocyte growth factor activator (HGFA) and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The antibody according to Claim 1, which shows a dissociation constant of ~~1×10^{-8}~~ 1×10^{-9} M or lower for active HGFA.

Claim 3 (original): The antibody according to Claim 1 or 2, which is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 4 (original): The antibody according to Claim 3, which recognizes active HGFA showing a molecular weight of about 34,000-98,000 determined by the SDS-PAGE method and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

Claim 5 (original): The antibody according to Claim 4, which recognizes active HGFA showing a molecular weight of about 34,000-38,000 determined by the SDS-PAGE method.

Claim 6 (original): The antibody according to Claim 4, which is produced by a hybridoma of an accession number FERM BP-7779.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A monoclonal antibody that recognizes active HGFA activated by limited proteolysis of inactive HGFA, which is a precursor of active HGFA, between arginine at a position of 407 and isoleucine at a position of 408 which correspond to amino acid positions 13 and 14 of SEQ. ID. NO. 3 as counted from a translation initiation amino acid of inactive HGFA, and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A monoclonal antibody that recognizes HGFA and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA and a complex of active HGFA and a protease inhibitor.

Claim 9 (original): A hybridoma cell line that produces a monoclonal antibody according to Claim 3.

Claim 10 (original): A hybridoma cell line that produces a monoclonal antibody according to Claim 7.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A hybridoma cell line that produces a monoclonal antibody according to Claim 8.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A method for measuring active HGFA, comprising the step of measuring the active HGFA specifically by an immunological method using one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize an active hepatocyte growth factor activator (HGFA) and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for measuring active HGFA, comprising the step of measuring the active HGFA specifically by an immunological method using one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize active HGFA activated by limited proteolysis of inactive HGFA, which is a precursor of active HGFA, between arginine at position 407 and isoleucine at a position of 408 counted from the translation initiation amino acid of inactive HGFA, and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method for measuring active HGFA, comprising the step of measuring the active HGFA specifically by an immunological method using one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize active HGFA and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA and a complex of active HGFA and a protease inhibitor.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein a specimen to be measured for active HGFA is a biological component collected from a subject or test animal suspected of having a disease.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the disease is organ inflammation, glomerular nephritis, cancer, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cerebral infarction or thrombosis.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A method for detecting a disease, comprising the step of detecting or measuring active HGFA in a biological component collected from a subject suspected of having a disease.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of organ inflammation, glomerular nephritis, cancer, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cerebral infarction or thrombosis.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 17 or 18, wherein the biological component is blood or a fraction or processed product thereof.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the biological component is plasma.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 20, wherein the plasma is citrated plasma.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 19, wherein argatroban is added to the biological component.

Claim 23 (original): A kit for detecting or measuring active HGFA, which comprises one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize an active hepatocyte growth factor activator (HGFA) and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A kit for detecting or measuring active HGFA, which comprises one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize an active HGFA activated by limited proteolysis of inactive HGFA, which is a precursor of active HGFA, between arginine at a position of 407 and isoleucine at a position of 408 which correspond to amino acid positions 13 and 14 of SEQ. ID. NO. 3 as counted from a translation initiation amino acid of inactive HGFA, and does not substantially recognize HGFA.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): A kit for detecting or measuring active HGFA, which comprises one or more kinds of antibodies that recognize an active HGFA and does not substantially recognize inactive HGFA and a complex of active HGFA and a protease inhibitor.

Claim 26 (original): The kit according to any one of Claims 23 to 25, which is used for the diagnosis of disease selected from the group consisting of organ inflammation, glomerular nephritis, cancer, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, cerebral infarction or thrombosis.

Claim 27 (original): The kit according to any one of Claims 23 to 25, which is used to measure active HGFA in a biological component collected from a subject suspected of having a disease.

Claim 28 (original): The kit according to any one of Claims 23 to 25, wherein the active HGFA is detected or measured by immunostaining.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): A blood collection tube for collecting serum, plasma or whole blood, which is added with argatroban.

Claim 30 (withdraw): The blood collection tube according to Claim 29, which is used to collect serum, plasma or whole blood to be used for measurement of active HGFA.